



## TREATS

- Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or a snack beforehand.
- Check out all treats at home in a well-lighted place.
- What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious.
- Parents should examine any toys or novelty items their children receive as treats in lieu of candy. Do not allow young children to have any toy or novelty items that are small enough to present a choking hazard to children under three years old.

## DRESSED UP AND DANGEROUS?

Halloween blood and gore are harmless stuff for the most part. But sometimes dressing up as a superhero, a swash-bucking pirate, or an alien from outer space — coupled with the excitement of Halloween — brings out aggressive behavior. Even fake knives, swords, guns and other costume accessories can hurt people. If these objects are part of a child's costume, make sure they are made from cardboard or other flexible materials. Better yet, challenge kids to create costumes that don't need weapons to be scary and fun.

## Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General

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# HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS



**MIKE FISHER**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**



*Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, it is often a cause for concern. As the Commonwealth's top law enforcement officer, I am committed to making Pennsylvania as safe as possible every night of the year. However, because of its unique traditions, "trick-or-treat" night has specific dangers which need to be taken into consideration. This brochure provides ideas and safety tips to help ensure your children's well being. By following these simple precautions, you can take great steps to having a fun-filled and trouble-free holiday.*

*Mike Fisher*

Mike Fisher  
Attorney General

## MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS DRESS UP SAFELY

- To reduce the danger from burning jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards, look for "flame resistant" labels on costumes, masks, beards and wigs. Also, avoid outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts as these are more likely to come in contact with an exposed flame.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping or falling. Children should always wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes.
- Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable and, more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision — a dangerous thing when crossing streets or going up and down steps. If a mask is worn, cut the eye holes and nose hole large enough to allow full visibility and so breathing is not hampered.
- Make sure youngsters wear light colors and/or put reflective tape on their costumes and treat bag.



## MAKE TRICK-OR-TREATING TROUBLE FREE

- Trick-or-treaters always should be in groups. Parents should accompany young children.
- Make sure older kids trick-or-treat with friends. Together, map out a safe route so parents know where they'll be. Tell them to stop only at familiar homes where the outside lights are on.
- Try to get your childrens to trick-or-treat while it's still light out. If it's dark, make sure someone has a flashlight and pick well-lighted streets.
- Make sure youngsters know not to enter strange houses or strangers' cars.

## CONSIDER THIS

Parents and children can avoid trick-or-treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be! Schools, fire fighters, libraries, or civic groups in many communities organize haunted houses and other Halloween festivities for families.